

DR. GEORGE ALEXANDROS CHRONAKIS

JUNE 19, 1951.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. WALTER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4038]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4038) for the relief of Dr. George Alexandros Chronakis, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of this bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in this country to a native and citizen of Greece, a physician, residing in Knoxville, Tenn.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The pertinent facts in this case are set forth in a letter submitted by the Assistant to the Attorney General, dated December 7, 1949, to the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, regarding a bill (H. R. 6287) pending in the Eighty-first Congress for the relief of the same person. The said letter reads as follows:

DECEMBER 7, 1949.

Hon. EMANUEL CELLER,
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (H. R. 6287) for the relief of Dr. George Alexandros Chronakis, an alien.

The bill would direct the Attorney General to cancel deportation proceedings against Dr. George Alexandros Chronakis and would provide that he shall not again be subject to deportation by reason of the same facts. It would further provide that he shall be considered as having been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence as of the date of his last entry upon payment of the required head tax and visa fee. Finally, the bill would direct the Secretary of State to instruct the quota-control officer to deduct one number from the nonpreference category of the appropriate immigration quota.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department discloses that Dr. George Alexandros Chronakis is a native and citizen of Greece, having been born in Sparta on October 26, 1909. He entered the United States at the port of New York on June 19, 1948, when he was admitted as a temporary visitor under section 3 (2) of the Immigration Act of 1924 until December 15, 1948. He was granted an extension of his temporary stay until June 15, 1949. His application for a further extension was denied, but he was advised that his departure from the United States on or before October 15, 1949, would be satisfactory. Action looking toward his deportation, however, was ordered held in abeyance pending consideration of this bill.

The files further reflect that the alien is a doctor of medicine who graduated from the University of Athens in 1940. After engaging in private practice for 3 months he joined the Greek Army as a first lieutenant in the Medical Corps. He stated that he served with the Greek Army until the Germans took control of Greece, after which time he again engaged in private practice, from 1941 until January 1947, when he went to Athens because of the guerilla fighting and Communist agitation in the vicinity of his home city. He further stated that he was employed in a clinic in Athens until he departed for this country. His wife and three minor children reside in Greece. Dr. Chronakis stated that his brothers, Louis and John, citizens of the United States, own restaurants in Knoxville, Tenn., and that he has been supported by them since coming to this country, and has been residing at the home of his brother, John. He also stated that he spends considerable time with Dr. N. D. Pappas, of Knoxville, observing American medical practices, and that he hopes to engage in medical practice in Knoxville, since Dr. Pappas, who is of Greek origin, is eager to have him assist him in his practice.

The quota of Greece, to which the alien is chargeable, is oversubscribed for many years, and an immigration visa is not readily obtainable. The record, however, fails to present considerations sufficient to justify the enactment of special legislation granting him a preference over the many other aliens in foreign countries who are awaiting an opportunity to come to this country for permanent residence.

Accordingly, this Department is unable to recommend enactment of this measure.

Yours sincerely,

PEYTON FORD,
The Assistant to the Attorney General.

The committee files also contain the following affidavits in support of this legislation:

AFFIDAVIT

MAY 24, 1950.

I am Dr. George Alexandros Chronakis a citizen or subject of Greece, having been born in Alephorion, Lakedaimonos, Greece, on October 26, 1909.

I am married to Adamandia Chronakis, and to this union three children have been born, Alexandros, aged 8; Lina, aged 6; and Ellen, aged 4.

I am a graduate of the University of Athens, Greece, having obtained my degree in medicine from this university in 1940. After graduation, I practiced my profession for approximately 5 months, when, due to hostilities, I entered the Medical Corps of the Greek Army, where I served until Greece was overrun by German troops. I was not taken captive but returned to my home in Blahioti, Greece, where I continued with my practice until 1948. In 1948, due to Communist activities, I was forced to flee to Athens, where I remained for a short time. Subsequently, and on June 19, 1948, I entered the United States of America upon a temporary 6-month permit. This permit has been extended.

Due to my opposition to the Communist element in Greece, my home was burned, where I had conducted my practice. Since my arrival in the United States, I have received advice from my wife that, should I return to Greece, my life would be in danger at the hands of the Communists.

I am not engaged in any activities, political or otherwise, injurious to the American public interest. To the contrary, I desire to become an American citizen. I offered my services to the United States military, but was rejected because I was not a citizen of the United States and/or had not filed my first papers signifying my intention to become a citizen.

I have never been arrested or convicted for any act or offense, either in Greece or in the United States. On one occasion I was placed in jail for approximately 1 week by the Communists in Greece, and then released, but I do not know why I was arrested or confined unless it was due to my opposition to the Communist activities.

I am presently residing with my brothers Louis Chronis and John Chronis in Knoxville, Tenn., and receiving financial assistance from them.

Since my sojourn in Knoxville, Tenn., I have studied medical procedure in local hospitals and institutions under the guidance of Dr. N. D. Pappas. I desire to continue my study and to engage in the practice of medicine in Knoxville, Tenn., and the vicinity, in association with Dr. N. D. Pappas.

GEORGE A. CHRONAKIS.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 27th day of May 1950.

[SEAL]

J. H. HODGES,
Notary Public.

My commission expires April 10, 1952.

AFFIDAVIT

MAY 24, 1950.

I, Dr. N. D. Pappas, a citizen and resident of Knoxville, Knox County, Tenn., and of the United States of America, state that I am a practicing physician and surgeon, engaging in the general practice of medicine in Knoxville, Tenn., and vicinity.

I have known Dr. George Alexandros Chronakis since he came to Knoxville, Tenn., and have had the opportunity to see him on almost daily occasions. During this period of time, I can state that Dr. Chronakis has not engaged in any activities, political, or otherwise, injurious to the American public interest. To the contrary, Dr. Chronakis has manifested a strong desire to become an American citizen. He offered his services to the United States military but was rejected because he was not a citizen of the United States and/or had not filed his first papers. Dr. Chronakis was advised that he could not file his first papers until his entry status was clarified.

Dr. Chronakis advises me that he has never been arrested or convicted for any act or offense, either in Greece or in the United States. He was placed in jail for approximately 1 week by certain of the Communists in Greece, and then released, but he does not know why he was arrested or confined, unless his incarceration was due to his opposition to their activities.

Dr. Chronakis is presently residing in Knoxville and receiving support from his brothers, Louis Chronis and John Chronis.

I am further advised that Dr. George Alexandros Chronakis is a native of Greece, and that he studied medicine at the University of Athens, Greece, obtaining his degree in medicine from that university in 1940. After graduation, Dr. Chronakis practiced his profession for approximately 5 months, when due to hostilities he entered the Medical Corps of the Greek Army, where he served until Greece was overrun by the German troops. Dr. Chronakis was not taken captive but returned to his home in Blahioti, Greece, where he continued with his practice until 1948. In 1948, due to Communist activities, Dr. Chronakis fled to Athens, where he remained for a short time. Subsequently, and on June 19, 1948, he entered the United States.

In addition to the foregoing information given me by Dr. Chronakis, I was advised by Dr. Chronakis that the Communists burned his home, where he had conducted his practice. That since his arrival in the United States he has received advice from his wife, who remains in Greece, that should he return to Greece his life would be in danger at the hands of the Communist element.

Dr. Chronakis has learned the English language rapidly since he has lived in the United States and now speaks English with ease.

While Dr. Chronakis has been in Knoxville he has studied medical procedure under my guidance, and in local hospitals and institutions. His ability in medicine is outstanding, and I unhesitatingly state that it would be my pleasure to have him associated with me in the practice of medicine should he be permitted to remain in the United States. We have a foreign-born element in our locality to whom Dr. Chronakis could render a genuine and needed service.

N. D. PAPPAS.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 27th day of May 1950.

[SEAL]

J. H. HODGES,
Notary Public.

My commission expires April 10, 1952.

AFFIDAVIT

MAY 24, 1950.

I am Dr. Troy Bagwell, a citizen and resident of Knoxville, Tenn. I know Dr. N. D. Pappas as a general practitioner in Knoxville, Tenn., and the vicinity, who renders a good, valuable, and needed service in this community. I unhesitatingly state that Dr. Pappas needs the services of Dr. George Alexandros Chronakis in administering to his patients.

TROY BAGWELL.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 27th day of May 1950.

[SEAL]

J. H. HODGES,
Notary Public.

My commission expires April 10, 1952.

AFFIDAVIT

MAY 24, 1950.

STATE OF TENNESSEE,
County of Knox, ss:

I am Dr. Herbert Acuff, a citizen and resident of Knoxville, Tenn. I know Dr. N. D. Pappas and regard him as one of Knoxville's outstanding general practitioners. It is my firm conviction and belief that Dr. George Alexandros Chronakis could be of material assistance to Dr. Pappas in caring for certain members of the foreign-born population of Knoxville. Dr. Chronakis' services are definitely needed in this locality.

HERBERT ACUFF.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 25th day of May 1950.

[SEAL]

GRACE F. CARTER,
Notary Public.

Commission expires October 14, 1952.

AFFIDAVIT

We, Louis Chronis and John Chronis, citizens and residents of Knox County, Tenn., and of the United States of America, state that Dr. George Alexandros Chronakis is our brother and is presently residing in Knoxville, Knox County, Tenn. Since Dr. George Alexandros Chronakis has been residing in Knoxville, Tenn., we have contributed to his support.

We further state that we are amply able to continue with the support of Dr. George Alexandros Chronakis and will guarantee and enter into bond to secure against the contingency of Dr. George Alexandros Chronakis becoming a public charge if he is permitted to remain in the United States of America and seek citizenship.

This May 27, 1950.

LOUIS CHRONIS,
JOHN CHRONIS.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 27th day of May 1950.

[SEAL]

J. H. HODGES,
Notary Public.

My commission expires April 10, 1952.

The committee files also contain evidence to the effect that Dr. Chronakis has graduated in medicine from the National and Capodistria University of Athens, Greece, on April 30, 1940; that he served honorably as an officer of the Medical Corps of the Greek Armed Forces; that he continued his scientific work; and that he served with distinction in the Gynecological-Obstetrical Clinic in Athens, Greece.

Mr. Frazier, the author of this bill, urged the enactment of his measure, pointing out the fact that a bill for the relief of the same person passed the House of Representatives in the Eighty-first Congress.

Upon consideration of all the facts in this case, the committee is of the opinion that H. R. 4038 should be enacted.